

REMARKS

Claims 1, 17-19, 36, 40 and 43-49 are rejected. Claims 1, 40 and 47 have been amended. Claims 54-67 are withdrawn with this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1, 17-19, 33-49 and 51-67 are now pending.

I. Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

A. Claims 1, 17-19, 40 and 43-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. 3,863,550 to Sarka et al. (“Sarka”) in view of U.S. 2,885,933 to Phillips (“Phillips I.”), U.S. 2,993,421 to Phillips (“Phillips II.”) and U.S. 4,112,827 to Kang (“Kang”), or, in the alternative, Sarka in view of Phillips I, Phillips II., Kang and U.S. 6,543,131 to Beroz (“Beroz”). In view of the following remarks, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding Independent Claims 1, 40 and 47

Each of independent claims 1, 40 and 47 recite a “covering” (see, e.g., claims 1, 47) or “housing” (see, e.g., claim 40). The covering or housing is seen at ‘62’ in Figures 2A and 2B of the originally-filed Drawings. For convenience, Applicant provides Figures 2A and 2B below.

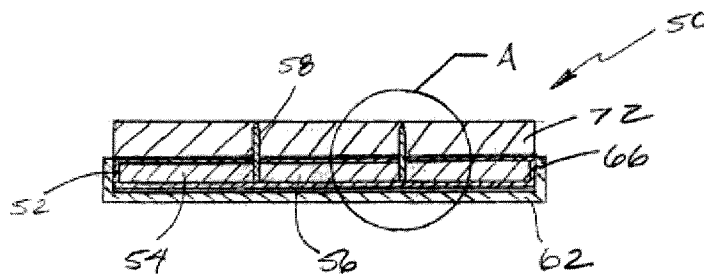


FIG. 2A

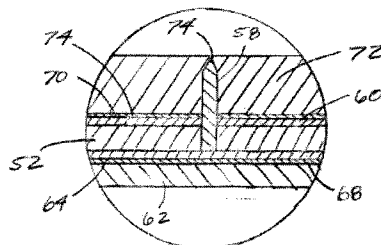


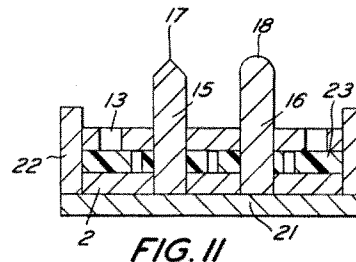
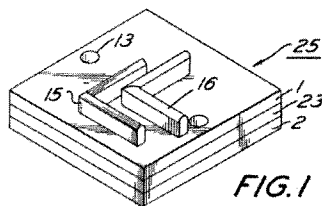
FIG. 2B
(DETAIL A)

Applicant respectfully submits that Sarka discloses a molding fixture for making the die board '25', but is removed after the molding manufacturing step (see Sarka col. 4, lines 2-14). The steel rules 15, 16 are coated with a mold release to that they may be easily removed from the molding fixture. See Sarka Col. 4, Lines 1-13:

4

posts may be, for example, of about a half inch in height. The spaced plates, with the posts fixed therebetween are then assembled in a molding fixture (FIG. 11) having a bottom 21 and side walls 22. The steel rules 15 and 16 are coated with mold release and then inserted firmly in the slots 12, and suitable plastic filler material 23 is injected through the holes 13 to fill the space between the plates and imbed the posts 20. The plastic is then cured to provide a semi-rigid laminated structure and the assembled die plate containing the steel rules is removed from the molding frame. The curing may be effected at ambient temperature conditions if desired.

(emphasis added).



For convenience, Applicant reproduces Sarka's Figures 1 and 11 above.

Sarka does not disclose:

a) At least "one blade fixedly attached to and extending outwardly from said front surface of said at least one metal base portion". Sarka shows non-fixedly attached blades to the alleged mold fixture. Sarka affirmatively states that there is a mold release agent applied and to facilitate removal of mold 21. Thus, Sarka does not meet the "fixedly attached" limitation.

b) A "layer of adhesive interposed between said back surface of said at least one metal base portion and said covering". Again, Sarka does not disclose the adhesive and indeed teaches directly away from an adhesive by requiring a release agent be used with the mold 21.

In more detail, Claim 1 has been amended to recite “at least one blade fixedly attached to and extending outwardly from said front surface of said at least one metal base portion” (emphasis added). Sarka states that the “steel rules is removed from the molding frame”. Thus, Sarka does not “fixedly” attach the steel rules to the molding frame. Moreover, Sarka states that the steel rules are coated with a “mold release” and therefore are not fixedly attached. Additionally, claim 1 recites a “layer of adhesive” that is not disclosed by Sarka.

Each of independent claims 1, 40 and 47 are allowable over the cited prior art because “21, 22” are not a “covering” or “housing” but rather, a molding fixture. The molding fixture of Sarka is used during the manufacturing but is then not used with, or a part of, the die board 25. Thus, at least in view of the molding fixture, Sarka is deficient in teaching, suggesting or otherwise disclosing a “covering” or “housing” as recited by independent claims 1, 40 and 47. Additionally, one or more of Phillips I., Phillips II., Kang and Beroz do not make up for the deficiencies of Sarka.

The Examiner’s arguments for “fixedly attached to” do not comport with the strong indication by Sarka that a release agent is used and that the mold is removed and separated by design from what is molded. Moreover, there is not indication that Sarka’s molding would even temporarily cause a “fixedly attached to” situation because the release agent is preventing “attachment” all together.

Moreover, the Examiner’s arguments that it would have been obvious to use double-sided tape or a mass adhesive is directly opposite the teachings of Sarka that require the use of a release agent. Thus, Sarka teaches the opposite of an adhesive.

Withdrawal of the rejection to independent claims 1, 40 and 47 is hereby requested.

The deficiencies of Sarka are not cured by Phillips I., Phillips II., Kang nor Beroz. Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is in condition for allowance over the cited prior art.

Claims 17-19 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 43-46 depend from independent claim 40. Claims 48-49 depend from independent claim 47. Therefore, claims 17-19, 43-46 and 48-49 are also non-obvious and therefore, allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 17-19, 43-46 and 48-49 is hereby requested.

B. Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Sarka, Phillips I., Phillips II. and Kang, or, in the alternative, Sarka, Phillips I., Phillips II., Kang, Beroz and in further view of U.S. 6,658,978 to Johnson ("Johnson"). In view of the foregoing remarks, the rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 36 depends from independent claim 1. Thus, for at least the same reasons as claim 1, claim 36 is non-obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 36 is hereby requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. 216683-114025 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 7, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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